

on rollcall Votes 180, 181 and 182. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 180, "nay" on rollcall 181, and "yea" on rollcall 182.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, due to official business in my District, I was unable to record my vote on H.R. 491 (rollcall no. 180), Naming a Room in the House Wing of the Capitol in Honor of G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, H.R. 4251 (rollcall no. 181), Congressional Oversight of Nuclear Transfers to North Korea, and H. Res. 309 (rollcall no. 182), Sense of Congress With Regard to In-school Personal Safety Education Programs for Children. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three bills.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, as I requested a leave of absence for today, May 15, 2000, had I been present on the following rollcall votes I would have voted: H. Res. 491, Naming a Room to the House of Representatives Wing of the Capitol in Honor of G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, "yea"; H.R. 4251, Congressional Oversight of Nuclear Transfers to North Korea Act, "yea"; H. Con. Res. 309, In-School Personal Safety Education, "yea".

□ 1900

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 4392, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEAR 2001

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Madam Speaker, tonight a Dear Colleague letter will be sent to all Members informing them that the Committee on Rules may meet later this week to grant a rule for the consideration of H.R. 4392, the Intelligence Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2001.

The Committee on Rules may grant a rule which would require that amendments be preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In this case, amendments must be preprinted prior to their consideration on the floor. Amendments should be drafted to the version of the bill reported by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

The language of the committee amendment is now available for Members on request to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The committee report will be filed tomorrow, Tuesday, May 16. Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted, and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from

the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 277) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby, with a Senate amendment, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment: Page 3, line 10, after "sales," insert "advertisements,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TURKEY'S REFORM-MINDED GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow in Ankara, Turkey, Judge Ahmet Necdet Sezer will take the oath of office to become president of that vitally important Nation and its 65 million people.

This is truly an historic moment. Judge Sezer is the first president of modern Turkey whose career has been spent neither in the military nor partisan politics. He is a distinguished career jurist who has served on Turkey's constitutional court for the past 12 years. Since 1998 he has been the President of the court, which is the equivalent of our Chief Justice.

Judge Sezer, now President Sezer, has been an outspoken advocate for modernizing Turkey's legal system, for liberalizing the country's constitution, for reforming their laws regarding freedom of expression and dissent, and for providing equal protection for the rights of all Turkish citizens, including the Kurdish minority.

The election of a reformist president in Turkey comes at an extraordinarily opportune moment. It was just 1 year ago that a parliamentary election was held which brought to power a coalition government that pledged itself to enacting major political and economic reforms.

Mr. Speaker, it must be noted emphatically that the government of Turkey has compiled a remarkable record over this past year. It is a record that defies the skepticism of critics and exceeds the hopes of friends.

The Turkish parliament, known as the Grand National Assembly, has passed 69 major initiatives, including

constitutional amendments, that hold great promise for the future development of Turkey.

Among the more important legislative changes that have been enacted are reforms to the social security system which will plug holes that had been wasting as much as 3 percent of Turkey's gross national product, strict limits on agricultural subsidies, a restructuring of the banking system, and a modernization of the entire budget process so as to control public spending and reduce deficits.

In a series of overwhelming votes that the Wall Street Journal in August of 1999 has characterized as "crossing an ideological watershed and a revolutionary change," Turkey's parliament enacted three constitutional amendments to open up the country to foreign investment, including international arbitration will be allowed on disputes between Turkey and foreign investors, administrative review of government contracts with foreign investors will be streamlined, and the state will formally recognize the privatization of public assets.

On the political front, the Grand National Assembly has adopted legislation to provide political parties with protection against prosecution, toughen the sentences for convictions of such crimes as obstruction of justice and violations of human rights, extend the constitutional amnesty to Kurdish insurgents who have been trying to establish a separate country, and prohibit military judges from serving in cases that come before the state security court.

All of these moves and many others that I have not even mentioned were rewarded last December when the European Union accepted Turkey as a candidate for membership and the International Monetary Fund approved a 3-year \$4 billion loan program to help the Turkish government fight inflation.

With an ambitious privatization program now being implemented and with the government exerting fiscal discipline, Turkey is already ahead of the IMF schedule for both revenue growth and reduction of inflation.

All of this is not to say, Mr. Speaker, that Turkey is without challenges, but it is to say that Turkey has turned a decisive page in its history. Mr. Speaker, I believe the government of Turkey will continue along the path of reform that it has staked out.

There will be critics, of course, but the salient question is simply this: Looking at the explosive region in which Turkey finds itself, how many other countries in that part of the world would America rather rely upon?

Turkey has been a faithful friend and trusted ally of the United States for nearly 50 years, and has been essential to the support of America's strategic regional interests. They have been a great and vital ally in NATO. In a region where most countries are racing to produce nuclear weapons and other